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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/592,599

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Dongyan Wang

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EXAMINER

TRAN, MYLINH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2179

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/04/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,599

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Mylinh Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-15, 17-25 and 27-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-15, 17-25, 27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment filed 07/10/07 has been entered and carefully considered. Claims 1-2, 9, 10-11, 17-18, 20 and 27 have been amended. However, the limitations of the amended claims have not been found to be patentable over newly found prior art. Therefore, claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-25 and 27-28 are rejected under the new ground of rejection as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17- 25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoffberg et al. [US. 2006/0200253].

As per independent claims 1, 10 and 20, Hoffberg et al. teach a computer implemented method and corresponding system for providing a user interface for controlling devices that are currently connected to a network comprising the steps/means:
for at least one of said devices:

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obtaining information from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, wherein each device contains device information and including user control interface description for user interaction with that device (0971); dynamically generating a top page user interface description based at least on the obtained information (1313), the user interface description including one or more references associated with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each reference in the top page user interface description includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said information contained in said devices currently connected to the network (0666); and

when one of the at least one electronic link in the top page user interface description is selected by a user, using the selected link to access the associated device and use the control interface description contained in the selected device to generate a device user interface for user interaction with that selected device (0818-0820).

As per claims 2, 11 and 21, Hoffberg teaches one of the at least one electronic the link comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the device information in an associated device (0830).

As per claims 3, 12 and 22, Hoffberg teaches the steps of generating the top page the user interface description such that the user interface

description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device (0807-0808).

As per claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23 and 24, Hoffberg generating the top page user interface description further includes the steps of associating a hyper-text link (0807) with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in a corresponding device and the information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device (0810).

As per claims 6, 15 and 25, Hoffberg teaches the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device (0831).

As per claims 8, 17 and 27, Hoffberg teaches the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that each link in the top page user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each associated device (0815).

As per claims 9, 18 and 28, Hoffberg teaches the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing one of the at least one electronic link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the one link in the top page is user activated, the activated link is used to access the associated device and retrieve control

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interface description contained in the corresponding device to generate and display a device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interaction with that associated device (0836).

As per claim 19, which is dependent on claim 10, Hoffberg teaches means for generating at least one top page user interface by: using each link in the top page user interface description to access the device information in each corresponding device, and generating the top page user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device (0801-0802).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-5, 10, 13-14, 20, 23-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4141.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:


571-273-8300

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

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WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER